

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ADMITS SPYING FOR BOTH SIDES AT SAME TIME

Swede Says He Met Reds in Pentagon

STOCKHOLM, May 26 [Reuters] — A Swedish air force colonel, now awaiting sentence for spying for Russia, told investigators he once worked for the United States and the Russians at the same time, it was disclosed today.

A police report issued here today said Col. Stig Wennerstroem admitted to his investigators that he sometimes handed information to a Russian contact at meetings inside the Pentagon when he was Swedish air attache in Washington.

He said the Russians were especially interested in atomic strength and political developments in the North Atlantic Treaty organization.

U. S. Denies Tie-Up

Thruout Wennerstroem's trial, the American embassy here repeatedly denied that "any American authority" had authorized him to spy for the United States.

"Wennerstroem told the investigators he became interested in espionage while studying Russian at Riga university in 1934, when he met an American who was working for British intelligence. In 1940, when he was assistant air attache in Moscow, he gave information about the Russians to the Germans.

In 1946, he said, he carried out an unspecified mission in Leningrad on behalf of the Americans.

Gets Russian Job

As air attache in Moscow in 1949, he decided to try to enter Russian intelligence. In his first job he obtained, and was paid for, information about a Swedish air field.

While in Moscow, he said, he was contacted by the American air attache who wanted to know the sources of "certain valuable information."

Wennerstroem said he could give the information only after he left Moscow and later made contact with American intelligence in Wiesbaden.

Shortly before he became attache in Washington in 1952, he said, the Russians found out he was working for the other side also and confronted him with the information.

Backs Dual Role

They told him they were convinced of his sympathies with the soviet cause and that it would be to their advantage for him to maintain his contacts with the Americans.

On one occasion while he was serving in Washington, he said, the Russians asked him to find out whether the Americans were preparing for a preemptive strike against them. He was able to clear this up to the Russians' satisfaction, the report added.

Wennerstroem said he used to photograph documents on special film which could be developed only in Moscow. He took the pictures in his office with a red warning light switched on to prevent anyone's coming in.

Meet in Washington

He said he had routine meetings with his Russian contacts in streets and parks in Washington.

"Sometimes I gave material to my contact in the Pentagon when we were there together on a group visit or when we met on a plane on a duty trip," he added.

"It was all very simple," the report quoted him as saying. "The left hand was always to be swinging freely. If you had anything to carry you kept it in the right hand. If there was any danger you immediately put your left hand in your pocket. This meant the contact man was not to show any sign of recognition."

He said there was very little danger of being trapped by being followed.

Can't Follow Everyone

"Shadowing was not so dangerous in Washington because the diplomatic corps is so terribly big," he said. "They could not shadow everybody at the eastern embassies. They had to be content with random checks."

He said one of his tasks towards the end of his Washington term was to assess the danger of an international crisis and report to Moscow any information which could prevent the Russians from misjudging the situation. He did this only once—during the 1962 Cuban crisis.